

ABORTION, INFANTICIDE, KILLING THE OLD 315

are diminishing in number, especially on the coasts, because they flee inland before the whites. Ten years ago there were at Port Sandwich, on Mallicolo, six hundred souls. To-day there are only half s& many. In the last years there have been five births and thirty deaths. Abortion is very common. If a malformed child is born, it and the mother are killed. The nations raid each other to get slaves or cannibal food.¹ These citations seem to represent the general usage throughout the Pacific islands.

322. Oviedo said of the women "of the main land" of South America, when first discovered, that they practiced abortion in order not to spoil their bodies by child bearing.² The Kadiveo of Paraguay are perishing largely through abortion by the women, who will not bear more than one child each.⁸ They are a subdivision of the Guykurus, who were reported sixty or seventy years ago to be decreasing in number from this cause. The women, "until they are thirty, procure abortion, to free themselves from the privations of pregnancy and the trouble of bringing up children."⁴ Martius⁵ gave as additional reasons, that the tribe lived largely on horseback, and the women did not want to be hindered by greater difficulties in this life, nor did they want to be left behind by their husbands. The Indians of the plains of North America were driven to similar limitations. "It has long been the custom that a woman should not have a second child until her first is ten years old."⁶ Infants interfere very seriously with their mode of life.

Neither abortion nor infanticide is customary in the Horn of Africa unless it be in time of famine.⁷ In South Africa abortion is a common custom.⁸ Abortion and infanticide are so nearly universal in savage life, either as egoistic policy or group policy, that exceptions to the practice of these vices are noteworthy phenomena.

323. Abortion renounced. In ancient India abortion came to be ranked with the murder of a JBrahnnin as the greatest crimes.⁹ Plato's idea of right was that men over fifty-five, and women over forty, ought not to procreate citizens. By either abortion or infanticide all offspring of such persons should be removed.¹⁰ Aristotle also thought that imperfect children should be put to death, and that the numbers should

be limited. If
 parents exceeded the prescribed number, abortion should
 be employed.¹¹
 These two philosophers evidently constructed their
 ideals on the mores
 already established amongst the Greeks, and their
 ethical doctrines are
 only expressions of approval of the mores in which they
 lived. The Jews,

¹ *Globus*, LXXXVIII, 164, after Joly. ⁷ Paulitschke, *Ethnog.*
~~N. O.~~

² *Three First English Books about*
America, 237.

³ *Afr.* *I*, 172,
Glokts, LXXXI, 4. ⁸

Fritsch, *Eingeb. Sud-Afr.*, 96.

⁴ Spix and Martius, *Travels in Brazil*, II, 77. ⁹ Zimmer,
Altind. Leben, 333.

⁶ *Ethnog. Brasil*, 231. ¹⁰ *Republic*, V, 9.

⁶ Grinnell, *Cheyenne Woman Customs*, 15; *JV. S.* ⁿ *Politics*, VII,
16.

Amer Anthrop.*, IV, 13.